(e) whether such imports liberalisation would affect the foreign exchange reserve adversely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. According to the provisional estimates from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, exports in dollar value during the first five months (April—August) 199i have fallen by 6.8 percent compared to the same period during the last year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Foreign Exchange Reserves level as on 5th December, 1991 is Rs. 7768 crores. Improvement in India's foreign exchange reserve is the net result of "several factors on trade account, on account of invisibles and on capital account. Among the important factors contributing to improvement in the foreign exchange reserves are inflows under capital account from International Monetary Fund, a reduction in outflows on account of NRI deposits, inflows on account of development bonds; under invisibles account, inflows under remittances on account of Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme; and under trade account, import compression measures.

(d) and (e) As a part of the over all economic policy reform the trade policy including the import policy is also under review and import libera lisation would be attempted keeping in view the needs of the economy, export promotion and maintenance of a reasonable level of foreign exchange reserves.

Tax Evasion by Progressive Constructions Limited

1832. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Par liament have submitted a, representa tion to Government on 7th August, 1991 regarding evasion of taxes am ounting to Rs. 25 crores by the Prog ressive Constructions Limited, Hyder abad and its group of concerns de manding investigations;

(b) if so, whether investigation into the affairs of the concern has been initiated;

(c) if so, the authority to whom investigations have been entrusted stating the terms of reference; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay and what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax has been directed to enquire into the allegations in the aforesaid representation.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (b) being in the affirmative.

Compulsory registration of marriages

1833. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to make registration of marriages compulsory; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?